

Art Unit: 2142

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1. (Three Times Amended) A system comprising:
- a client computer to playback multimedia content and annotations corresponding to different temporal portions of the multimedia content; and
- an annotation server, coupled to the client computer, to,
- maintain an annotation database having a plurality of annotations corresponding to the multimedia content,
- provide the plurality of annotations to the client computer for playback,
- send electronic mail messages including annotations to recipients identified by the client computer,
- analyze electronic mail messages that are received not in reply to a previous electronic mail message that included annotation data, to locate data in the electronic mail messages,
- generate new annotations that include the located data but no new annotation data, and
- add the new annotations to the annotation database.

2. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a media server to manage streaming the multimedia content to the client computer, wherein streaming the multimedia content comprises the multimedia content being

communicated to the client computer on an as-needed basis rather than being pre-delivered in its entirety prior to beginning playback of the multimedia content.

3. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a network coupling the client computer to the annotation server.

4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the client computer is further to:

present an electronic mail message including a multimedia content identifier to a user,

receive a user selection of the multimedia content identifier,

access a media server to obtain the multimedia content, and

playback the multimedia content to the user.

15 5. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the client  
16 computer is further to transmit, to the media server, an identifier of a temporal  
17 segment of the multimedia content that is after the beginning of the multimedia  
18 content, and wherein the media server is to stream to the client computer the  
19 multimedia content beginning with the identified temporal segment.

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1 ~~13.~~ (Amended) A method comprising:  
2 receiving data for a new annotation corresponding to a temporal range of  
3 media content;  
4 generating an electronic mail message including, [both]  
5 the content of the new annotation, [and]  
6 an identifier of the media content, and  
7 an installation option that identifies an installation program that can  
8 be used to install one or more modules allowing the content and  
9 corresponding media content to be rendered; and  
10 forwarding the electronic mail message to a recipient identified by the data.

11 ~~14.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~13~~, wherein the generating further  
12 comprises including, in the electronic mail message, an identifier of the new  
13 annotation.  
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15 ~~15.~~ A method as recited in claim ~~13~~, wherein the generating further  
16 comprises including, in the electronic mail message, an identifier of the temporal  
17 range of media content.  
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19 ~~16.~~ One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
20 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
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22 ~~13.~~  
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(Three Times Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding to media content, the new annotation corresponding to one of a plurality of temporal segments of the media content that is after the beginning of the media content;

presenting the electronic mail notification to a user;

receiving a user selection of an identifier, within the electronic mail notification, of the media content; and

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accessing, in response to the user selection, a media server to stream, for rendering to the user, the media content beginning with the one of the plurality of temporal segments that corresponds to the new annotation.

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A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting comprises displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user.

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(Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting comprises:

displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user; and

1 displaying [at least one] a plurality of identifiers to the user, the [at least  
2 one] plurality of identifiers including [one or more of]:

3 a content identifier that identifies the media content;

26 4 a range identifier that identifies a temporal range of the segment  
5 corresponding to the new annotation;

6 an annotation identifier that identifies the new annotation; and

7 an annotation set identifier that identifies one or more of a plurality  
8 of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new  
9 annotation is part of.

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23 20. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the content identifier  
24 comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

14 21. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the receiving a  
C 5 user selection comprises receiving a user selection of a uniform resource locator  
(URL) of the media content.

17 22. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the receiving a user input  
comprises receiving a user selection of an identifier of the annotation.

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~~18~~ 23. (Twice Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding to media content, wherein the electronic mail notification includes a user-selectable identifier of the media content;

displaying the electronic mail notification;

receiving a user selection of the identifier; and

automatically accessing, in response to the user selection of the identifier of the media content, a media server indicated by the identifier to begin, at a point in the media content after the beginning of the media content and corresponding to the new annotation, streaming the media content for presentation to the user.

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~~18~~ 24. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim ~~23~~,  
wherein the user-selectable identifier comprises a uniform resource locator (URL)  
that identifies a server and a location at the server where the media content is  
located.

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<sup>20</sup>  
~~28~~. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:  
an interface module to receive data regarding a new annotation  
corresponding to media content;

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a module to generate an electronic mail message regarding the new  
annotation, the electronic mail message including,

the new annotation content,

a user-selectable link to the media content, wherein the link includes  
an identifier of the media content to which the new annotation corresponds,  
and an identifier of a temporal range of the media content that the new  
annotation content is associated with, wherein the temporal range  
corresponds to a location of the media content that is after the beginning of

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the media content and at which rendering of the media content should begin  
in response to selection of the link in the electronic mail message.

CLAIM 26

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<sup>20</sup>  
~~27~~. A system as recited in claim ~~25~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the electronic mail  
message further includes a unique identifier of the new annotation.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~28~~. (Amended) A system as recited in claim ~~25~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the electronic  
mail message further includes an identifier of one or more of a plurality of  
annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new  
annotation is associated with.

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21 20. A system as recited in claim 28, wherein the system comprises an  
22 annotation server computer.

1 24 30. A system as recited in claim 28, wherein the system comprises a  
2 client computer and wherein the interface module comprises a user interface.

31 26 31. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving an electronic mail notification of an annotation corresponding to  
media content;  
replying to the electronic mail notification to generate a new annotation  
corresponding to the media content;  
including, in the reply, an identifier of one or more annotation sets of a  
plurality of annotation sets that the new annotation is associated with, wherein the  
annotation sets correspond to categories for annotations; and  
displaying a default recipient, corresponding to the identified one or more  
annotation sets, that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new  
annotation.

32 25 32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the replying includes:  
obtaining, from the electronic mail notification, an identifier of the  
annotation; and  
including the identifier of the annotation in the reply.



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(Twice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail thread including a plurality of electronic

 mail messages;

creating, after the plurality of electronic mail messages have been  
included in the electronic mail thread, a plurality of annotations from the

plurality of electronic mail messages in the electronic mail thread; and

adding the plurality of annotations to an annotation database.

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1 ~~281~~ 35. A method as recited in claim ~~33~~ <sup>29</sup>, wherein:  
2 the creating comprises generating, for each of the plurality of electronic  
3 mail messages, an annotation; and  
4 the adding comprises adding each of the generated annotations to the  
5 annotation database.

6 ~~36~~ 36. A method as recited in claim ~~33~~ <sup>29</sup>, further comprising locating, in the  
7 electronic mail thread, an identifier of media content that the annotation  
8 corresponds to.  
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~~37~~ (Three Times Amended) One or more computer-readable  
EU media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by  
one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform  
functions including:

receiving an electronic mail message that is not in reply to a  
previous electronic mail message;

locating data in the received electronic mail message;

generating a new annotation from the located data in the electronic  
mail message, wherein the new annotation includes the located data but no  
new annotation data; and

EU adding the new annotation to an annotation store.

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~~38~~ One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim ~~37~~,  
wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to  
perform functions including:

creating a new annotation based on the extracted annotation content and the  
annotation identification information; and  
adding the new annotation to an annotation database.

~~39~~ (Three Times Amended) One or more computer-readable media as  
recited in claim ~~37~~, wherein the located data comprises:

an identifier of media content to which the annotation content corresponds  
and of a temporal segment, corresponding to the annotation content, of the media  
content; and

an identifier of an annotation set that a new annotation including the  
extracted annotation content is to be part of, wherein the annotation set is one of a  
plurality of annotation sets corresponding to categories for annotations.

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~~40~~ (New) A method as recited in claim ~~13~~, wherein the installation  
option comprises a user-selectable link that identifies the installation program.



(Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message including data corresponding  
to media content that is not included in the electronic mail message;



locating the data in the electronic mail message;

generating, after locating the data, a new annotation corresponding  
to the media content, wherein the new annotation includes,

an author field including data identifying a sender of the  
electronic mail message as an author of the new annotation,

a creation time field including data identifying the time at  
which the new annotation is generated,

a title field including data identifying a title of the new  
annotation,

a content field including the located data but no new  
annotation data, and

a media content identifier field including data identifying the  
media content to which the new annotation corresponds.

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~~42.~~ (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each generated new annotation includes:

an author field including data identifying an author of the new annotation,

a creation time field including data identifying the time at which the new annotation is generated,

a title field including data identifying a title of the new annotation,

a content field including the located data, and

a media content identifier field including data identifying the multimedia content to which the new annotation corresponds.

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